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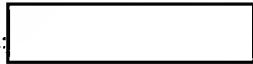
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7 March 1956



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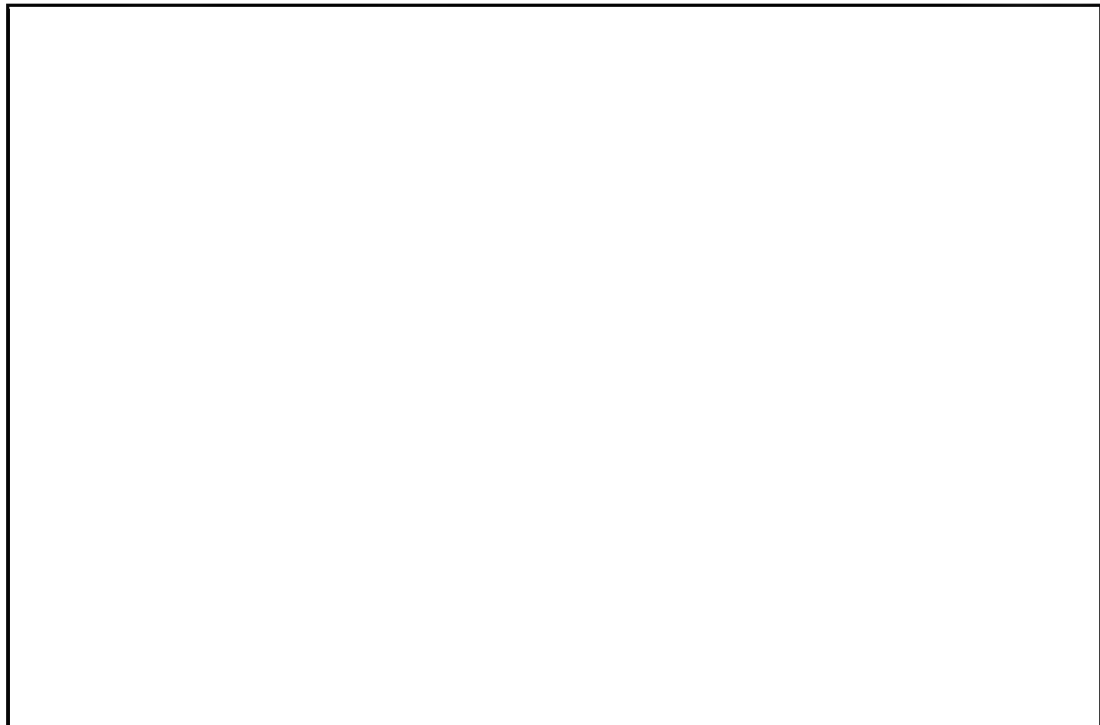
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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Department review completed

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1. ISRAEL MAY BE SEEKING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
WITH USSR

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Israel may be moving away from a pro-West foreign policy, according to the American embassy in Tel Aviv. The speaker of the Israeli Knesset

announced on 28 February that an exchange of parliamentary delegations between the USSR and Israel will soon take place. Israel notified the representative of the UN technical assistance board on 23 February that Israel will gratefully accept such additional equipment and aid as may be supplied from the USSR contribution or other sources. When it was pointed out that this could open the way for Soviet technicians, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman replied that Israel understood this.

Moderate Israeli newspapers are beginning to support a line previously taken only by leftist newspapers that if arms are not delivered by the US, they should be sought elsewhere. One independent newspaper has suggested that "Israel can recognize the fact of Soviet regional penetration and request a Soviet status quo guarantee in the area similar to the France-UK-US declaration. An even better solution would be a Soviet joining of the tripartite declaration." The paper also said that the "Arab states are not the only ones which can take a neutral stand between the two giant blocs fighting one another."

Comment

Israel followed a foreign policy of non-identification with the Western and Soviet blocs for several years after its establishment in 1948. The main drawback to a return to such a policy is the possibility that the contributions from world Zionism, on which Israel is economically dependent, might be jeopardized.



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2. YUGOSLAVIA INDICATES READINESS TO ESTABLISH PARTY RELATIONS WITH USSR

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A speech by Vice President Kardelj on 29 February to a regional Yugoslav Communist Party meeting indicates that Belgrade is now ready to

establish party-to-party relations with the Soviet Communists. Kardelj called the events at the Soviet party congress, and particularly the affirmation of the "various roads to socialism" thesis, "a clear basis for democratic co-operation and relations between countries which are on the path to socialism, as well as between their leading socialist forces," the latter a term that includes Communist parties.

Kardelj's number-two position in the Yugoslav hierarchy lends authority to his policy pronouncements. His statement that "the congress proves once more how very correct our orientation was, in new circumstances, to establish friendly relations and co-operation with the USSR and with its leading force, the Communist Party," may mean that interparty relations have already been established, possibly before the congress. Yugoslav spokesmen, as late as 23 February, said that party relations had "not yet" been established.

Belgrade's willingness to go beyond state-to-state relations indicates that it no longer fears this would lead to domination by Moscow and that it believes it can now persuade the West that interparty relations do not mean Yugoslavia has returned to the Orbit.

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4. SUSPENSION OF CYPRUS TALKS WIDENS GREEK-TURKISH BREACH

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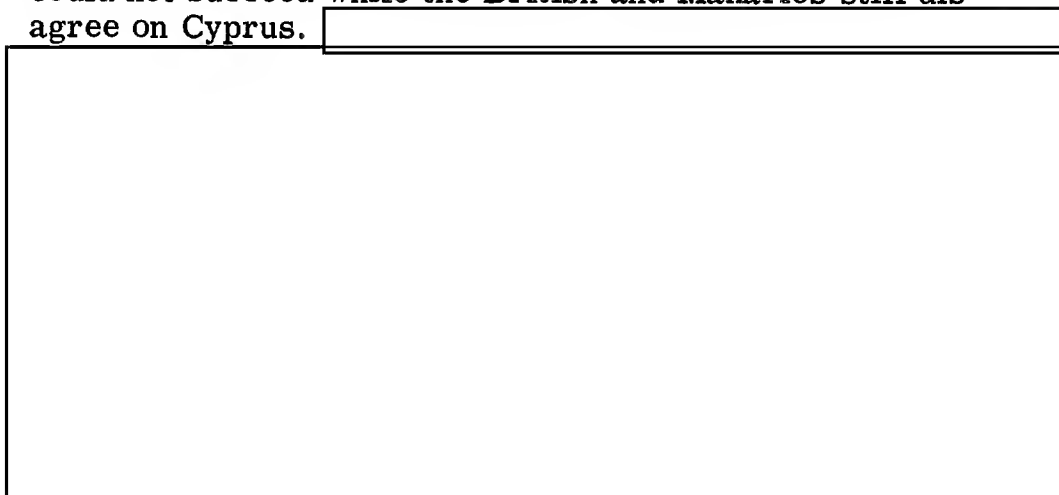


Athens' decision to review "the entire question" of Greek relations with Turkey reflects Greek frustration over the collapse of the Cyprus negotiations and resentment at Turkey's role in limiting British freedom of action in dealing with Archbishop Makarios, leader of the island's Greek

majority. The Greek ambassador in Belgrade says this review is necessitated by the Turkish criticism of Greece voiced by Foreign Minister Koprulu before the Turkish parliament on 26 February.

The ambassador intimated that Greece would withdraw its consent to an early meeting of the Balkan pact ministerial council and said a council meeting could not succeed while the British and Makarios still disagree on Cyprus.

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